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countrymen, the people of England, we, your petitioners, claim the benefit of this wholesome usage.

33. In trying the issue which this petition brings before your Honourable House, we therefore pray, that neither Placemen, nor Pensioners, nor Sinecurists, in the pay of the Crown, nor the Nominee, nor any person in the pay of any Close-Borough Patron, be allowed to vote.

34. Other causes of disqualification being likewise notoriously known to the nation, we also pray that it may be required of every remaining member, to declare upon his honour as a gentleman, that to the best of his knowledge and belief, he owed his election wholly to the free choice of men uncorrupted by reward, given either before or after his return, as well as uninfluenced by threats or unconstitutional influence of any kind.

35. And your petitioners, for averting convulsion or bloodshed, anarchy, or the hateful despotism of military government; and claiming, on behalf of themselves, and the community of England, as well as their posterity, a fairly proportioned representation, co-extensive with direct taxation, in parliaments of a duration not exceeding one year, also pray, that these undoubted rights may be secured to them; that so, what by Magna Charta and the Bill of Rights was left imperfect and unfinished, by now putting the nation actually in possession of the undoubted rights and liberties on those occasions only declared, may be at length fully completed and established, and the English Constitution once more rise from its own ashes, with renewed life and improved energy, for the benefit, the tranquillity, the happiness, and the glory of our country, to the end of time.

BISHOP OF NORWICH.

August 17th, those Members of the Catholic Board, resident in Dublin, and its immediate vicinity, waited on the Bishop of Norwich, at the house of Mr. Gore, in Stephen's Green, with the Address which had been voted to his Lordship on last Friday.—The procession, which was very splendid, (when the shortness of the notice, or the season of the year, when gentlemen usually retire to the country is considered) consisted of about 40 carriages. The Earl of Fingal, after some prefatory remarks suitable to the occasion, presented the revered

and venerable advocate of the Catholic cause with the following address:

To the Right Rev. Henry, Lord Bishop of Norwich, &c. &c. &c.

"MY LORD,

"We wait on your Lordship, a deputation from the Board of Irish Catholics, with an address of congratulation, on your arrival in this kingdom, and we beg to assure you, that we never have discharged a duty more grateful to our hearts, or more sanctioned by our judgments. Strong feeling is our country's characteristic, and on no occasion has it been more powerfully excited—To receive amongst us a personage in every respect distinguished—by birth, learning, station, and virtue—the genuine disciple of the mild principles of the Gospel—the irresistible supporter of universal philanthropy—the eloquent vindicator of religious liberty and sound Christianity—the Catholic advocate in the Protestant Prelate—is to us an event almost as new as it is auspicious, as interesting as original.

"Your Lordship comes no stranger to visit us—your presence is hailed by the ac-cording voice of a nation—by the rapturous greetings of millions—an unexampled and a glorious welcome!

"Our gratitude, my Lord, is no sudden effusion, no evanescent sentiment; it is built on the solid foundation of high benefit conferred, and invaluable service, and is heartfelt and inextinguishable. Deeply as our cause is indebted to the unrivalled talents, and unconquerable perseverance of a host of powerful and distinguished advocates—much as it may owe to the state of the times, the convulsions of the world, and the crisis we are placed in—advanced as it has doubtless been by the growing liberality and illumination of the age—still we forcibly feel, that prejudice and intolerance never encountered an enemy more formidable than in the person of your Lordship. Your voice, my Lord, was the knell of bigotry—the prejudices of ages shrunk before it, and fanaticism stood silent and appalled!

"There is a melancholy pleasure in dwelling on the *imaginary* existence of such characters as your Lordship, invested with rule, and governing this kingdom, in times long lapsed. How different the reality from the picture!—Our country, the seat of peace, of arts, and of science, its high advantages improved to their full extent of cultivation, the Irish mind taught

to reach its exalted tendency; feuds and animosities unknown and unthought of; universal union, and unrivalled prosperity! The mind sickens from the contrast, and recoils from the page of reluctant history!

"Under the auspices of such men as your Lordship, should it please Providence to grant them, what, alas! has not *been*, we might confidently anticipate. Glorious days might still await us, and this long oppressed and neglected country might yet assume the port and dignity, the rank and character, to which, but for the counteracting machinations of man, it was destined by Heaven."

ANSWER OF THE BISHOP OF NORWICH.

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"If I were called upon to name the proudest day of my life, I should most assuredly fix upon this very day; because an opportunity is now offered me, for the first time, of declaring, before an assembly of loyal and respectable Irish Catholics, (among whom I have the honour to see two learned and amiable Prelates, and Noblemen of whose virtues and abilities there is but one opinion,) those sentiments of esteem and veneration, which I have for their personal characters, and that devoted attachment to their just cause, which no man in the United Kingdom can feel more sincerely or more strongly than I do. Nor, Gentlemen, do I claim any merit with you, for making this declaration, because I consider *your* cause as the cause of Civil and Religious Liberty; neither of which can be said to exist in perfection in any country where thousands of individuals are excluded, on account of their religious opinions, from those offices of honour and emolument, an equal eligibility to which I have been always taught to consider, and shall never cease to consider, as ranking among the common rights of loyal and dutiful subjects, under whatever denomination of Christians they may come; provided, I mean, that they give to the civil government under which they live, an adequate security for their conduct as civil subjects. And who, Gentlemen, will presume to say, that you have not done this, who has read the *declaration* made by so many honourable men, and the *v oath* taken by so many conscientious Christians?

"It is not, however, my wish, on the present occasion, to dwell upon the principal subject of your wrongs; indeed, my disposition does not at any time lead me,

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nor do my professional pursuits qualify me, to discuss minutely topics of a political nature, nor is it now necessary. Fortunately for the *honour*, for the *peace*, for the *prosperity*, of the United Kingdom, and for the real *security* both of Church and State, a marked revolution of public opinion has lately taken place, the consequence of which will, I trust, be, that, in the course of a few months, every clause, every line, every syllable of those penal laws will be repealed, of which with so much reason you complain;—laws which appear to me as unwise as impolitic, and as uncharitable as they are unjust and oppressive. But, lest I should be thought to deliver my sentiments on this interesting subject with more warmth than becomes a man of my age and of profession, I will say no more.

"Allow me, only, Gentlemen, to add my heartfelt thanks, for the honour you do me, by your kind congratulations on my arrival in this country; and permit me to assure you, which I do with great truth, that, if I could want any inducement to persevere in that line of conduct which I have hitherto pursued, the approbation of the Catholics of Ireland would be one of the most powerful inducements I could possibly have."

RELIGIOUS TOLERATION.

Thanks of the Methodists to Earl Stanhope. At a Meeting of the General Committee of Societies founded by the late Rev. John Wesley, held 31st July, 1812, Dr. Adam Clarke in the Chair:

Resolved, That the most respectful thanks of this committee be presented to the Rt. Hon. the Earl Stanhope, for his Lordship's unwearied exertions in behalf of Religious Liberty—for the support and valuable assistance afforded, relative to the Bill respecting Religious Worship, which received the Royal assent on the 29th inst.—for the polite and condescending attentions manifested to the Members of this committee upon various occasions—and for the liberal and important services rendered by his Lordship to the very large body of people whom this committee have the honor to represent.

ADAM CLARKE, Chairman.

JOS. BUTTERWORTH, Secretary

EARL STANHOPE'S ANSWER.

Berner's Street, August 3d, 1812.

GENTLEMEN,

It is highly gratifying to me to find that

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